



Otoe County Board Minutes



April 26, 2022

The Otoe County Board of Commissioners convened in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on April 26, 2022, to audit and sign regular claims and payroll claims and to take care of such other matters as are on the agenda for this meeting. Advance notice of this meeting was published in the Nebraska City News Press and posted in at least three public places, including the County's website. This meeting was open to the Public, and the agenda was kept current, and is on file for public inspection at the office of the Otoe County Clerk during regular business hours.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jerad Sornson. Answering present at roll call were Commissioner Sornson, Commissioner Freshman, Commissioner Parsons, Commissioner Crownover, and Commissioner Thurman.

Commissioner Sornson informed the public in attendance that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the meeting room. Additional copies are available upon request.

Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons to accept the agenda as posted. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Crownover to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and not have them read as each member was furnished with a copy of same. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Having reviewed the regular claims in advance of this meeting, Freshman made a motion, seconded by Thurman to approve payment of the regular claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Thurman, to approve payroll claims. There being no further discussion, Chairman Sornson called for a vote. Voting aye were Commissioners Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

There was a large number of people present in opposition of the wind farms. Chairman Sornson announced that the Board of Commissioners and Otoe County Planning Board would be attending the wind energy meeting at the Kimmel Event Center on May 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. It has been advertised that the board members will be attending. They will be attending for informational purposes and no official actions will be taken. Deanna Moore inquired about the meeting format and stated that she would gather questions for their group to prepare for the meeting.

Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to add Commissioners Crownover and Thurman to the planning board. Parsons asked if this is for all aspects of the planning commission or for wind energy only. Thurman stated for wind farms, to look at electricity needs, and zoning comparisons with other counties. Jenniffer Panko-Rahe, County Attorney, indicated that this would create a subcommittee to review current zoning regulations and allow them to report back to the Board of Commissioners. Voting aye were Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.



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Crownover made a motion, seconded by Thurman, to approve a moratorium of up to 12 months for conditional use permits for wind energy. Conditional use permits are currently required for wind energy projects and the moratorium would stop this process for up to 12 months. This time will allow the board(s) to review current regulations. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Sornson made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to take a short recess. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The meeting resumed in session at 8:51 a.m.

Crownover made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to update the KENO grant applications and to suspend KENO grant funding until the applications are complete. The eligibility and requirements will be reviewed. Commissioner Thurman will work on the project and present new applications at a future meeting. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

The KENO application submitted by the Village of Burr was tabled.

Scott Bruns, representing Rural Water #3, was present to request ARPA funds to replace a generator at a booster station North of Syracuse. Chairman Sornson added that Otoe County Emergency Management is also tied to the tower, and it is a critical component for the NRIN link. During a power outage, communication and water pressure affected. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to obligate up to \$28,000 to Rural Water #3 to purchase and install a new generator. Voting aye were Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried. Mr. Bruns stated that it would be approximately 40 weeks to receive the generator. Funding will be distributed at a later date.

Sornson opened a public hearing to hear comments regarding a subdivision plat of Hauberg Subdivision, a 3.22+- acre tract of land located in the South $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, T 7N, R 12 of the 6th P.M. Otoe County, Nebraska. David Schmitz, Otoe County Surveyor and Zoning Administrator, stated this is an existing house site and is being completed for estate planning purposes. The subdivision plat was approved unanimously by the planning board. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to approve the Hauberg Subdivision plat as presented. Voting aye were Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, and Crownover. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Ashley Griess, Chief Probation Officer – District One, and Chris Reece, Drug Court Coordinator for SE Nebraska Adult Drug Court, presented annual reports. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Freshman, to approve the SE Nebraska Adult Drug Court interlocal agreement. The agreement is for July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, and includes Otoe, Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, and Pawnee counties. Voting aye were Sornson, Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, and Thurman. Nay – none. Motion carried. Parsons, made a motion, seconded by Crownover, to approve the budget request for adult drug court. The total budget for the program is \$33,900 with Otoe County's portion being \$16,317.00. Voting aye were Freshman, Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, and Sornson. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Vanessa Sherman, Juvenile Diversion Director/Central Navigator, presented the Grant Award and Special Conditions for the 2023 CB Juvenile Services Aid Grant. The awarded amount is \$48,852.00 for the period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Freshman made a motion, seconded by Parsons, to



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approve the award and special conditions. Voting aye were Parsons, Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, and Freshman. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Bids for a rubber tire steer and/or compact track loader were publicly opened on Friday, April 22nd at 10:00 with the following present: Jenny Bassinger, County Clerk, Jerad Sornson, County Commissioner, Jon Brinkman, Highway Superintendent, Dustin Kreifels, KanEquip, Brian Motschenbacher, Bobcat of Lincoln, Jeremy Slechta, NMC, and Taylor Wenzel, Murphy Tractor. The bids were as follows:

Bidder	Type/Model	Bid Amount	Delivery
NMC	Track loader/ 2593	\$70,098.00	150 days
	Rubber tire/ 262D3	\$55,956.00	60 days
Bobcat of Lincoln	Track loader/T66	\$65,277.73 + \$500 for joystick	120 days
	Rubber tire/ 576	\$56,888.70 + \$600 for joystick	120 days
KanEquip	Track loader/ 300T (JCB)	\$91,430.66	60 days
	Rubber tire/ 300 (JCB)	\$73,528.84	60 days
	Track loader/ C332 (New Holland)	\$63,125.00	30-45 days
	Rubber tire/ L328 (New Holland)	\$54,500.00	30-45 days
Murphy Tractor	Track loader/JD325G	\$71,500.00	120 days
	Rubber tire/ JD324G	\$58,360.00	240 days

Mr. Brinkman recommended the New Holland track loader and stated that the bid met all spec requirements. Parsons made a motion, seconded by Thurman, to award the bid to KanEquip in the amount of \$63,125.00 for the purchase of a new track loader. The track loader will be paid for with ARPA funds. Voting aye were Crownover, Thurman, Sornson, Freshman, and Parsons. Nay – none. Motion carried.

Jon Brinkman presented the Highway Superintendent Report: Project (665) C Road Paving – the dirt contractor has moved in and is grading and shaping the east end of the project. The county crews removed trees at R & 14 North – project (629); driveway culverts and ditching at K & 26 South; removed trees, removed old culvert, installed culvert and backfilled at S & 42 East – Project 664); cleaned out ditch at K & 66 South; installed crossover culvert at S & 72 intersection; filled in water hole near Victorian Acres; replaced part of subfloor and deck plank on bridge 0034 at H & 2 North; replaced part of subfloor and deck plank on bridge 23320, E & 32 North. Both crews have been grading and hauling rock.

There was a discussion of ARPA fund use. The proposal of allocating up to \$30,000 of ARPA funds to the eight villages in Otoe County, Burr, Douglas, Dunbar, Lorton, Otoe, Palmyra, Talmage, and Unadilla, was discussed. The proposed idea would require the villages to apply for the funds and present the project/use to the board. The funding would need to be used for allowable expenses and receipts would be required. Commissioner Thurman will work on preparing an application to be used for funding requests. It was stated that Otoe County has spent some of the ARPA funds on county building repairs and equipment. No action was taken – the board will review the application and



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approve the process and allocations at a future meeting. Upon approval, villages would be notified and provided an application.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, and since all items on the agenda have been disposed of, Chairman Sornson declared this meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 10, 2022.

I, Jennifer Bassinger, County Clerk of Otoe County, do hereby certify that the above minutes were taken by me, and are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I therefore set my hand and affix the county seal this 26th day of April 2022.

Jennifer Bassinger
Otoe County Clerk